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Section 17: "**gentis*, adj. (Fr. Pr. *gent*, It. *gente*¹), apparently a cross between *genitus* and *gentilis*"; but the fact that Prov. always has fem. *genta* makes it reasonably certain that the word is Lat. *genitus* pure and simple. Section 134: As exceptions to the rule that the penult vowel before mute and liquid normally has the stress in Vulgar Latin are mentioned *pálpebras* > O. Fr. *palpres*, **púlitra* > O. Fr. *poltre*, "and perhaps some others". The present writer is able to add only *ferctrum* > O. Fr. *fiertre*, Ital. *feretro*. Section 138: "Aside from these [above-mentioned] cases, hiatus seems to have had no effect on the accent in Latin. It is possible, however, that *duós*, *súos*, *túos* were sometimes pronounced *duós*, *suós*, *tuós*". The fact which is here tentatively mentioned without explanation or cross-reference, is correctly, if too briefly, set forth in section 158: "Words sometimes stressed and sometimes unstressed tended to develop double forms: *illás* > *illas* and **las*, *sua* > *súa* and *sa*". It is such vital processes as this, teeming with the possibilities of momentary deviation from norm, that should claim the fullest elucidation, even in a succinct manual. An exposition of this phenomenon, in particular, would serve to illuminate the differentiation of the so-called conjunctive and disjunctive personal pronouns of the practical grammars and of the adjectival and pronominal forms of the determinatives (including the definite article). Section 170: Apropos of *pejor*, and the discussions of Terentianus Maurus and Priscian, it would have been appropriate to start with **per-ior* > *pejor*. Section 358: "An ablative in *-abus* is occasionally found". It may be entertaining *virginibus puerisque*—as well as eminently proper—to find here, duly chronicled as rarities, and with all the critical apparatus of reference to the *Archiv*, to Person and to Bonnet, our familiar friends of the nursery and of Lesson I of all the Latin primers, *deabus* and *filiabus*.

But such desultory comment must not even seem to be permitted to obscure the wealth of systematically accumulated detail, ranging progressively through the chapters on vocabulary, syntax, phonology and morphology. In addition to a full general bibliography, the successive paragraphs are supplied, wherever requisite, with more specific references; and there is an adequate index. The book is presented in attractive garb, and typographical errors are commendably few. In Section 178 ω is twice misprinted *ce*; in Section 192, last line, a rough breathing is twice printed under δ , in place of iota subscript.

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SUMMARIES

COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS AND TRUSTS IN ROME

R. Laurient-Vibert has in the *Mélanges d'Archéologie et d'Histoire* of May-July, 1908, a very in-

¹This is one of the few paragraphs in which Romance equivalents are given.

teresting article on the *publicani* of Asia in 51 B. C.

In general, of course, every teacher of Cicero is familiar with the farming of the Roman revenues in Asia and elsewhere by the *Societates publicanorum*. It appears, however, that in the year mentioned, the governorship of Cicero in Cilicia, we find the management of the revenues of all Asia Minor in the hands of a syndicate, headed by, and named after the *Societas Bithyniae*, probably because the latter had been the moving spirit in the consolidation. Ordinarily the different societies dealt with the different departments of the revenues—*decuma*, *scriptura*, *portoria*—had their special *magistri*, or managing directors, and could place themselves under the patronage of different influential officials. Legally, the censors of each lustrum made new contracts, and hence the life of a farming society would have been limited to the space of one lustrum, i. e. five years. Apparently, however, these societies occasionally were above the law. Thus we find that during the administration of Cicero, the corporation, thanks to the wise dealings of the proconsul, was able to collect not only the taxes due during its own lustrum, but also those owing from the preceding one. It seems thus that the one company had held the contract since 61 B. C. Now we know from the earlier correspondence of Cicero that the contractors of 61 had demanded the repeal of their contract with the Roman state, because, as they claimed, their bid had been ruinously high. This demand had been energetically fought by Cato, who had succeeded in blocking all legislative progress, and it had been only during the consulate of Caesar, 59, that the contractors had gained their point, and had had their contract reduced by 33%. The fact that there were at that time no other bidders willing to compete shows the existence of a tax trust, which had the state at its mercy. Caesar, indeed, sought to safeguard the republic against further imposition by stipulating that thereafter the societies should never bid below the price of 59. A further examination of the details by M. Laurient seems to reveal the existence of a very clever plot on the part of the different *societates*. One of them, by outbidding all the others in 61, secured the contract at what appeared an exceedingly advantageous offer for the state. It then bought up all its competitors, and by refusing to carry out the contract compelled the state not only to grant very much reduced terms, but also to extend the franchise for more than the legal period. It is unnecessary to point to the very up-to-date character of the transaction. E. R.

CLASSICAL STUDIES AS A PREPARATION FOR LAW

IV. Discussion of the first three Papers.

(1) By Hon. Harlow P. Davock, of the Detroit Bar.

The question when and how far Latin and Greek should be studied may be left for determination to